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Zagreb, 12 May 2016

29th Meeting of the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Protection
REPORT FROM THE MEETING

Zagreb, 12 May 2016

Venue: Floating boat of PWMC "Srbijavode", Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

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I. ATTENDANCE

The PEG members from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia attended the meeting. Additional expert from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia attended the meeting. The experts from World Bank and WWF also participated at the respective agenda items.

The list of participants is annexed to this report.

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Dragan Zeljko chaired the meeting.

III. ADOPTED AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
 - Welcome address
 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 2. Overview of the activities between the two PEG FP meetings**
 - Presentation on the ISRBC activities
 - Short statements/presentations on the relevant activities in the Parties & ME (PEG FP members& representative of Montenegro)
- 3. Tasks and duties regarding conclusions from the previous PEG meetings and the ISRBC sessions**
 - Exchange of information on related regional and national projects
 - Sava GIS - status of uploading FRM related data
 - 2nd Sava River Basin Analysis report – flood related issues
 - Operation manual for the measures and activities in flood defense emergency situations
- 4. Improvement of Joint Flood Management Action in the Sava River Basin (“WBIF project”)**
 - Status of the project and next steps
 - ToR for technical assistance for preparation of the Sava FRMP
 - Discussion and conclusions (all participants)
- 5. U.S. Government support – 2nd phase**
 - Hydrologic & Hydraulic modelling
 - “Lidar” project
- 6. Other relevant projects and activities**
 - Introduction
 - The potentials and possibilities of using natural retention to mitigate the effects of floods -Morovičko-Bosutska forest
 - IPA Floods
- 7. Any other issues**

IV. DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

AD.1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Welcome and opening remarks by the PEG FP Chairman

Mr. Dragan Zeljko opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The group was informed that Montenegro was also invited to participate, but its representatives were not able to come to the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

PEG FP adopted the proposed agenda of the 29th meeting (*Doc.Ref.No: 3-16-3/2-2*), with agenda items presented in Part III of this report. (Meeting document: *Ad.1. PEG FP_29th meeting_AdoptedAgenda*).

AD.2. ISRBC ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE TWO PEG FP MEETINGS

Presentation on the ISRBC activities

On behalf of the Secretary, Mr. Dejan Komatina, who could not participate in the meeting, Mr. Zeljko informed the PEG FP on the most important activities and events since the last, 28th PEG FP meeting held in January 2016, as well as on the upcoming meetings and events.

As the most important facts for the work of PEG FP he emphasized the following:

- Consultation Workshop on Sava Nexus Assessment “Lessons Learned and Further Steps“, held in Sarajevo and Belgrade (28 and 29 Jan. 2016)
- 41st session of the ISRBC, held in Belgrade (17-18 Feb. 2016)
- Establishment of Sava Water Council and its 1st meeting, held in Belgrade (18-19 Feb. 2016), back to back with the 41st session of the ISRBC
- Meeting with Directors of NHMSs from the Sava River Basin, held in Zagreb (23 Feb. 2016)
- The ISRBC expert groups were re-established (full information available at the PEG ftp site)
- 6th Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB will be held in Belgrade on 1 June 2016
- 42nd session of the ISRBC will be held in Zagreb on 5 July 2016.

More information on other activities and events can be found in presentation (*Ad.2_Presentation on ISRBC activities_PEG FP 29*).

Short statements/presentations on the relevant activities in the Parties & ME

Slovenia

Mr. Luka Štravs informed PEG about the activities in the implementation of the EU Floods Directive (FD) in Slovenia and the current status in the flood risk management planning. He stressed the following:

- Slovenian FRMP has been completed at national level;
- It addresses the flood risk at 61 APSFR, which were grouped in 17 river basin districts (11 of those are in the Sava River Basin);
- Slovenian FRMP therefore includes 17 flood risk management plans which are logically (inter)connected and include a detailed identification and prioritization of the necessary flood protection measures that have already been going on or still have to be put in place in particular river basin;
- Coordination of the flood protection measures with the goals of the WFD was done by classifying the flood protection measures from Slovenia’s catalogue of flood protection measures into three groups; measures in synergy with the WFD goals, measures which are

irrelevant for the WFD goals and measures that could potentially be in conflict with the WFD goals (and will have to be checked in the later phase of the implementation of the particular measure);

- The process of the national FRM Plan reporting to the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) is ongoing;
- An important organizational restructuring of the water sector took place. The Slovenian Water Agency (Direkcija Republike Slovenije za vode) has been established.

Croatia

Mr. Marijan Babić informed the PEG about the activities in the implementation of the FD in Croatia, with the following main points:

- The national FRMP, integrated with the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), is finalized and, after the public consultation process, the joint Plan has been submitted to the Government for adoption;
- As required by the FD, Croatia's draft FRMP includes both non-structural and structural measures to manage flood risks, with the key objective of reducing the flood risks corresponding to goals of Croatia's Water Management Strategy that had been enacted by the Croatian Parliament in 2009;
- The programme of structural measures is based on Multiannual Programme of Construction of Water Regulation and Protection Facilities and Amelioration Facilities 2013-2017 (MAP), which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia in October 2015;
- Croatia is currently preparing a number of projects aimed to implement the measures planned in the FRMP, and intends to apply for the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) loans (40 mil EUR). The other source of financing are the EU funds;
- An operative flood forecasting system for the Sava and Kupa Rivers from the border with the Republic of Slovenia to their junction at Sisak was completed in September 2015, as a joint project of Croatian Waters and State Hydrometeorological Service. Croatia is continuing extension of the system to the Serbian border, in cooperation with responsible institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is planned to complete the project by the end of 2016.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Almir Prljača, expert from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ICPDR FP EG member informed the PEG FP that the B-H Action Plan is in the implementation phase, with the following 6 main goals:

- rehabilitation and reconstruction of the dykes,
- implementation of the FD,
- works on the flood protection,
- the hydrological monitoring system enhancement,
- the flood forecasting system development,
- capacity building.

For the implementation of the FD, he emphasized that flood hazard and flood risk maps, including LiDaR data collection, will be prepared through WBIF project (3.38 mil EUR), and the project application for the FRMP development is in preparation for the IPA 2017 funds.

Mr. Prljača stressed that the process of amending the water law is ongoing, according to which the deadlines for individual phases of the FRMP development will be extended as follows:

- PFRA – 2017,
- FHR maps – 2019,
- FRMP – 2021.

Mr. Latinović informed the PEG that the PFRA for the entity Republika Srpska is still in process of approval by the Government.

Additionally, Mr. Prljača informed the PEG that the first RBMP for Bosnia and Herzegovina is drafted and the public consultation process is ongoing, with the deadline until October 2016.

Serbia

Ms. Radovanka Pavlović informed the PEG about the activities in the implementation of FD in Serbia. She stressed that the FHR maps, prepared through the IPA project - Study of flood prone areas in Serbia (SoFPAS), are finished but not approved due to incorrect input data.

She emphasized that the list of infrastructure projects planned by 2029 has been prepared, based on the locations of APSFRs.

Ms. Pavlović also informed the PEG about preparation of the new Water Law, which shall fully transpose the FD into the Serbian legislation.

AD.3. TASKS AND DUTIES REGARDING CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PEG MEETINGS AND THE ISRBC SESSIONS

Details on the agenda item are available in Ad.3_Tasks&DutiesOverview.

Exchange of information on related regional and national projects

The Secretariat has prepared the final version of the template for exchange of information on the flood related projects, according to the conclusions of the PEG FP 28, together with information about the projects and activities carried out through the work of the ISRBC. However, the data from the countries are still missing. The PEG members are urged to submit the information as soon as possible in order to be ready for the next ISRBC session scheduled for the beginning of July.

The PEG took note on the information provided and concluded the following:

- The countries will deliver the information on related projects by June 1, 2016;
- The Secretariat will analyze the collected data and prepare the first version of the document by June 7, 2016.

Sava GIS - status of uploading FRM related data

Mr. Sarač informed the PEG that the Secretariat informed the Ah GIS EG members (the PEG GIS, since 41st ISRBC session) about the conclusions of the PEG FP 28, related to agreed upload of the available FRM data. He emphasized that the Secretariat has assisted GIS experts in preparing data, either using data already submitted to ISRBC (for the flood protection structures) or data (for PFRA and APSFR) which are reported to the EC by the EU countries (SI, HR). He also noted that up to date of the meeting only the data from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the dykes (5 feature class with associated attribute tables) and the pumping stations (4 feature class with associated attribute tables) were uploaded to the SavaGIS FRM database.

The following was agreed:

- The countries will upload the available data, in accordance with the related conclusions of the PEG FP 28, for: PFRA, APSFR (remaining attribute data), Flood hazard and risk maps and Flood protection structures by June 15, 2016.

2nd Sava River Basin Analysis report – flood related issues

The PEG FP discussed the conclusions of the PEG FP 28 and took note of the summary sheet information and what has been done after the last meeting.

Conclusion:

- PEG FP agreed to provide the final comments on text, delivered for the PEG FP 28, by June 1, 2016.

Operation manual for the measures and activities in flood defense emergency situations

Conclusion:

- The Secretariat will contact Mr. Đuroković regarding the possibility of preparing an initial text and submission of related documents for preparation of this manual, according to the conclusion of the PEG FP 28

AD.4. IMPROVEMENT OF JOINT FLOOD MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN THE SAVA RIVER BASIN (“WBIF PROJECT”)

Status of the project and next steps

Mr. Zeljko briefly informed the PEG on the current project status and introduced Ms. Anna Cestari, the representative of the World Bank (WB) and Mr. Jože Papež, the WB consultant who gave a detailed presentation of the project components.

Details on the project are available in Ad.4_Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin WBIF project-Summary Sheet.

Ms. Cestari presented details of the project component 2 - Flood Forecasting and Warning System for the Sava River Basin (Sava FFWS) and emphasized that the technical assistance for the implementation of the Sava FFWS, covering the complete Sava River Basin, with the three major expected outcomes of the project:

- Operational flood forecasting and early warning system with installations in the riparian Sava River Basin countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia,
- Well trained staff in each of Riparian Countries,
- Recommendations on future improvements of the forecasting system.

She informed the PEG that the WB finalized the procedure of election of consultants which ended with the award of contract to the Consortium consisting of:

- Deltares (the leading consultant),
- Royal HaskoningDHV,
- Eptisa,
- Hydro-engineering Institute of Sarajevo and
- independent consultant Mihailo Andjelic.

After short presentation of the Consortium, Ms. Cestari gave a very detail presentation of the technical proposal including the approach, methodology of work, project organization and work plan.

The PEG members discussed after the presentation of every single task, with the following conclusions:

- Technical part of the proposal (methodology and work plan) should be delivered to the beneficiaries,
- Organizational structure of the project should be more oriented to the existing mechanisms of cooperation of the ISRBC,
- The representatives of consortium should not be part of the steering board,
- Number of the meetings for all three levels of the organizational structure should be reduced and connected with the regular meetings of the relevant ISRBC expert groups,
- Travel and accommodation costs for members of all three levels of coordination should be covered, if possible.

The PEG members as well as the WB representative agreed that all mentioned issues should be resolved during the inception phase.

More information can be found in presentation (*Ad.4_SavaFFWS_A.Cestari.pptx*).

ToR for technical assistance for preparation of the Sava FRMP

Mr. Zeljko briefly informed the PEG that the WB has selected Mr. Papež to prepare the proposal of ToR. Mr. Zeljko stressed that Mr. Papež has made a visit to the Secretariat as well as the competent institutions in Croatia and Slovenia and prepared a first draft of the ToR which will be presented and discussed on the meeting. Mr. Papež, thereafter, presented the ToR in details.

More information can be found in presentation (*Ad.4_SavaFRMP_ToR-InitialDraft_J.Papez.pptx*).

Conclusions:

- Comments on the initial draft and any additional proposals to improve the text should be delivered by 27 May 2016;
- The consultant should prepare a cost estimate of the activities foreseen by the ToR for technical assistance.

AD.5. U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT – 2ND PHASE

Hydrologic & Hydraulic modelling

On behalf of Mr. Brantley Thames, the USACE expert, Mr. Sarač informed the PEG about the project progress.

He gave an overview presentation and emphasized that after completing a final basin delineation and acquiring all available data, USACE spent the last several months working towards completing a calibrated HEC-HMS model. Mr. Sarač also stressed that the delineation of the basins in Slovenia is also additionally improved, as it was agreed at the 28th meeting, so the rivers: Ljubljanica, Krka and Savinja are added into the model as separate sub-models.

USACE began with recalibrating the Slovenia, Kupa, Una, and Bosna basin models using hourly data and due to the update to overall basin delineation USACE re-develop many of the parameters, such soil loss rates and percent imperviousness, defining the hydrologic response within the Sava River Basin. Reach parameters were also update, based on the new drainage network development concurrently with basin delineation. In addition, many of the meteorological model parameter were updated such as evapotranspiration rates and snow-water equivalent values.

USACE has currently calibrated all of the basins within the Sava River Basin with the exception of the Vrbas, Drina, Ukrina, Tinja, and Bosut Basins. The Vrbas and Drina basins contain large scale multi-purpose hydropower dams, for which the Secretariat has collected large amounts of time series data from the various HPP companies, through the mediation of national institutions and delivered this information to USACE. Mr. Sarač emphasized that the other dams within the Sava River Basin (in Slovenia on the Sava river mainstem and in Croatia in the Kupa River basin) will be also included in the model, but calibration for these dam will not be made considering their insignificant impact on the high waters regime.

The Bosut basin will be calibrated using new information collected by the Secretariat and the other two basins (Ukrina and Tinja) will be calibrated using adjacent basin calibrations to determine the most reasonable parameters for the Bosut.

Mr. Sarač emphasized that the most critical limitation to this event calibration is the available meteorological data, given that some areas of the basin have a fairly dense coverage of stations whereas other areas do not, but he also stressed that the best possible calibration of the entire basin will be achieved.

More information can be found in presentation (*Ad.5_US Government support – 2nd phase_HHmodelling_Progress_Update.pptx*).

- PEG FP took note on the information.

Details on the project activity are available in Ad.5_US Government support - 2nd phase HH modelling-Summary Sheet.

Lidar project

Mr. Zeljko informed the PEG on the latest developments in preparation of the Lidar project and emphasized that the U.S. Authorities launched the procurement procedure in February 2016 and the eligible proposals were evaluated for technical responsiveness. He stressed that some additional services would be requested from the vendors: production of breaklines, wider spatial extent and the new timeline for implementation of the tasks. The addition to the Performance Work Statement (PWS) is being prepared by ISRBC and USACE.

In addition to the completion of the procurement procedure, as the next steps within this phase of the US Government support Mr. Zeljko pointed out that ISRBC will prepare the proposal for purchase of IT equipment and for workshop(s) for ISRBC and the national institutions.

- PEG FP took note on the information;
- Mr. Babić will inform the Secretariat on the availability of LiDAR products for the areas along the Sava River upstream of Zagreb in Croatia.

Details on the project activity are available in Ad.5_US Government support_Lidar project -Summary Sheet.

AD.6. OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The potentials and possibilities of using natural retention to mitigate the effects of floods Morovičko-Bosutska forest

Ms. Duška Dimović, representative of the WWF, presented information to the PEG about the project proposal - *Potentials and opportunities of natural retentions for flood mitigation - Morovičko-bosutske šume*, as an instrument of integrative flood risk management and habitat conservation tool, with following project objectives:

- Reduced risk of flooding of settlements and complex of arable land;
- Improved conservation status of the habitats and species of national and international importance;
- WFD objectives implementation through the common stakeholder participation as a pilot for the EU candidate country;
- Increase in water availability and quality, consequently higher biological productivity, sustainable forestry and wildlife management;
- Increased capacities for traditional pasturing, as practical tool for dyke maintenance;
- Historical spawning and nursery grounds for many fish species restored;
- Improved ecosystem services and beneficiaries.

The main project deliverable is the feasibility study for a modification to the dike system and scenarios with dike removal and the project partners are: Vode Vojvodine, Vojvodinašume, Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province and WWF.

More information can be found in presentation (*Ad.6_PotentialNWRM_MOROVIC _D.Dimovic.pptx*).

- PEG FP took note on the information and supported the project proposal;
- The Secretariat will investigate the possibility of inclusion of Morovičko-Bosutska forest into the final proposal of spatial extent of the LiDAR project (US Support project).

Details on the project are available in Ad.6_Morovicko Bosutske sume-Summary Sheet&Maps.

IPA Floods

Mr. Zeljko informed the PEG about the 2nd Steering Group Meeting, held in Sarajevo, on March 9 2016. As the participant at the meeting on behalf of the Secretariat, he emphasized the importance of the Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB during that meeting and the obligation of the ISRBC Parties to determine procedures for emergency flood defense, within the joint Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River basin. With this regard Mr. Zeljko asked the IPA FLOODS Consortium to address the issues of procedures related to cooperation and mutual assistance in flood related emergency situations.

- PEG FP took note on the information.

Details on the project are available in Ad.6. IPA FLOODS -Summary Sheet.

AD.7. ANY OTHER ISSUES

The next 30th meeting of PEG FP shall be held in late September, back to back with the inception phase workshop of the Sava FFWS project.

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Full Name	Country/Company/Organization	Tel/ E-Mail	Attendance
SECRETARIAT OF THE SAVA COMMISSION			
Dragan Zeljko	ISRBC Secretariat	+385 1 488 69 68 dzeljko@savacommission.org	x
Mirza Sarač	ISRBC Secretariat	+385 1 488 69 72 msarac@savacommission.org	x
PEG FP MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS			
Almir Bajramlić	Bosnia and Herzegovina Sava River Watershed Agency	+387 33 726 407 bajramlic@voda.ba	x
David Latinović	Bosnia and Herzegovina Public Institution “Vode Srpske”	+387 51 215 485 dlatinovic@voders.org	x
Amer Kavazović	Bosnia and Herzegovina Sava River Watershed Agency	+387 33 726 425 kavazovic@voda.ba	x
Marijan Babić	Republic of Croatia Croatian Waters	+385 1 630 74 02 marijan.babic@voda.hr	x
Zoran Đuroković	Republic of Croatia Croatian Waters	zoran.durokovic@voda.hr	
Radovanka Pavlović	Republic of Serbia Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection	+381 11 201 33 47 radovanka.pavlovic@minpolj.gov.rs	x
Marina Babić Mladenović	Republic of Serbia Jaroslav Černi Institute for the Development of Water Resources	+381 11 390 64 77 marina.babic-mladenovic@jcerni.co.rs	x
Luka Štravs	Republic of Slovenia Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	+386 1 478 74 04 luka.stravs@gov.si	x
Bojan Jakopič	Republic of Slovenia Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	+386 1 478 72 06 bojan.jakopic@gov.si	x
Blažo Đurović	Republic of Slovenia Slovenian Water Agency	+386 1 478 31 42 blazo.djurovic@izvrs.si	
EXPERTS AND GUESTS			
Vasiljka Kolarov	Republic of Serbia Jaroslav Černi Institute for the Development of Water Resources	kolarovv@yahoo.com	x
Almir Prljača	Bosnia and Herzegovina Sava River Watershed Agency	prljaca@voda.ba	x
Duška Dimović	WWF	ddimovic@wwfdep.org	x
Anna Cestari	World Bank	acestari@worldbank.org	x
Jože Papež	World Bank consultant	joze.papez@hidrotehnik.si	x

ANNEX II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Document	ENG	HRV	SLO	BIH-BOS	BIH-HRV	BIH-SRP	SRP
1.	Ad.1. PEG FP_29th meeting_AdoptedAgenda.docx	↓						
2.	Ad.2_Presentation on ISRBC activities_PEG FP 29.ppt	↓						
3.	Ad.3_ Tasks&DutiesOverview .pdf	↓						
3.	Ad.3_Exchange of information on flood related projects_29thPEGFPmeetingUpdate_05122016.xls	↓						
4.	Ad.4_Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin_WBIFproject-Summary Sheet.pdf	↓						
4.	Ad.4_Flood Forecasting and Management in the ISRBC framework_WBIFproject.ppt	↓						
4.	Ad.4_SavaFFWS _A.Cestari.pptx	↓						
4.	Ad.4_SavaFFWS_LetterAGREEMENT.docx	↓						
4.	Ad.4_SavaFRMP_ToR-InitialDraft_J.Papez.pptx	↓						
4.	Ad.4_Sava FRMP_ToR-WB-Initial Draft_2016-05-10.docx	↓						
5.	Ad.5_US Government support - 2nd phaseHH modelling-Summary Sheet.pdf	↓						
5.	Ad.5_US Government support – 2nd phase_HHmodelling_Progress_Update.pptx	↓						
5.	Ad.5_US Government support_Lidar project - Summary Sheet.pdf	↓						
6.	Ad.6_Morovicko Bosutske sume-Summary Sheet&Maps.rar - Ad.6_Morovicko Bosutske sume-Summary Sheet&Maps.pdf - Map 1 Retention site location_Serbia.jpg - Map 2 Bosut forest compartments_overview.jpg - Map 3 Bosut basin_habitat map.jpg - Map 4 Bosut forested water retention_explanation aa.jpg	↓						↓
6.	Ad.6_PotentialNWRM_MOROVIC _D.Dimovic.pptx	↓						
6.	Ad.6_IPA FLOODS -Summary Sheet.pdf	↓						
6.	AD.6_BD_IPAFLOODS_2ndSteeringGroupMoM.pdf	↓						
6.	AD.6_BD_IPAFLOODS Guidelines and Good Practices for Implementing the EU Floods Directive_20160229ST.pdf	↓						

ANNEX III. MAIN CONCLUSIONS, OBLIGATIONS AND DEADLINES

Agenda Item	Description/Conclusion	Responsible	Deadline	Remark
AD.3.	Tasks and duties regarding conclusions from the previous PEG meetings and the ISRBC sessions			
	<i>Exchange of information on related regional and national projects</i>			
	Delivery of the information by means of the templates	PEG FP	1 June	
	Analyzing of the information collected, preparation of the first version of the document (filled template) and submission to the ISRBC	Secretariat	7 June	In accordance to Rules of procedure documents must be submitted 28 days before the ISRBC session (42 nd , 5 July)
	<i>Sava GIS - status of uploading FRM related data</i>			
	The countries will upload the available data for: - PFRA - APSFR (remaining attribute data) - Flood hazard and risk maps - Flood protection structures	PEG FP PEG GIS	15 June	
	<i>2nd Sava River Basin Analysis report – flood related issues</i>			
	Final comments on the text, delivered for the PEG FP 28	PEG FP	1 June	
	<i>Operation manual for the measures and activities in flood defence emergency situations</i>			
	Contact Mr. Đuroković regarding the possibility of preparing an initial text and submission of related documents for preparation of this manual, according to the conclusion of the PEG FP 28	Secretariat	ASAP	
AD.4.	Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin (“WBIF” project)			
	<i>ToR for technical assistance for preparation of the Sava FRMP</i>			
	Comments on the initial draft and additional proposals to improve the text, delivered for the PEG FP 29	PEG FP	27 May	Mr. Papež, the WB consultant, will prepare a cost estimate of the activities foreseen by the ToR for technical assistance
AD.5.	U.S. Government support – 2nd phase			
	<i>“Lidar” project</i>			
	Inform the Secretariat on the availability of LiDAR data for the areas along the Sava River upstream of Zagreb in Croatia.	Mr. Babić	ASAP	Done.
AD.6.	Other relevant projects and activities			
	<i>The potentials and possibilities of using natural retention to mitigate the effects of floods -Morovičko-Bosutska forest</i>			
	Investigate the possibility of inclusion of Morovičko-Bosutska forest into the final proposal of spatial extent of the LiDAR project (with the US Authorities)	Secretariat	ASAP	